



# Saint Benedict the Moor Parish

*Personal Parish for Black Catholics in Pittsburgh*

## Mass Schedule

Sunday 10:30 am

Livestream: [facebook.com/SBTMPGH/live](https://facebook.com/SBTMPGH/live)

Sacrament of Reconciliation,  
Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals  
by appointment.



Our church is accessible.

## Staff

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Rev. C. Matthew Hawkins, Parochial Vicar:  
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Christopher Catone, Music Director

Priscilla Davis, Office Manager

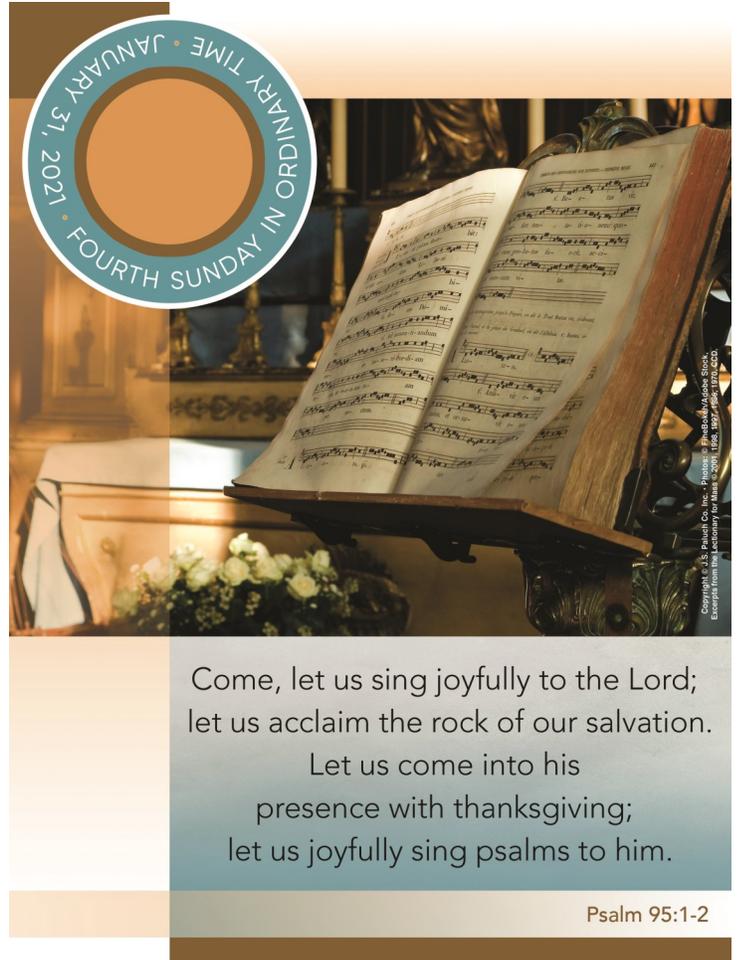
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Website:  
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[St. Benedict the Moor Parish-PGH](https://www.facebook.com/St.BenedicttheMoorParish-PGH)



[SBTMPARISHPGH](https://www.instagram.com/SBTMPARISHPGH)



[SBTmparishPGH](https://www.youtube.com/SBTmparishPGH)

## Mass Intentions

January 31  
Fr. David Taylor

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Anthony and Dorothy Raffaele  
Cathy Raffaele

February 7  
Fr. Matthew Hawkins

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Madam Alice Ozemwongie Egiebor  
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Igbineweka



This week  
the Sanctuary Candle  
is lit in Memory  
of Harry Orlando.

Theresa Orlando

## Stewardship

January 24

Offertory	Parish Share	Special Collections
\$2,307.00	\$235.00	\$385.00

**Bulletin Announcements** are due at 9 am on Monday for the next Sunday's bulletin:  
[craffaele@stmarymagpgh.org](mailto:craffaele@stmarymagpgh.org)

**Bible Study with Fr. Matthew** continues on Thursdays, at 7 pm on Zoom.

Fr. Matthew has created videos on Bible Study which are available on our website:

[saintmarymagdalene.org/bible-study-videos](http://saintmarymagdalene.org/bible-study-videos)

For more information, contact Fr. Matthew at 412.661.7222 or [mhawkins@diopitt.org](mailto:mhawkins@diopitt.org).

To register (required): [craffaele@stmarymagpgh.org](mailto:craffaele@stmarymagpgh.org)



**CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION  
PLUS**

**Radio Program,**  
with Fr. Tom Burke as  
host, highlights elemen-

tary and secondary schools; colleges; youth ministry programs; and more, and is broadcast every other Sunday morning on KDKA-AM. Fr. Tom's guest on January 31: Dr. Brad Swiger, Principal of St. James School in Sewickley.

Link to the podcasts of the program on KDKA:

[kdkaradio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus](http://kdkaradio.com/media/podcast/catholic-education-plus)

**As a Faith Community,**  
we pray for all who request prayers.

*Duane Ashley, Edward Davis, Rita Davis,  
Dolores Denton, Lydia Francis, Marie Francis,  
Woody Frazier, James Fuller, Ann Fultz,  
Janet Glass, Brenda Glenn, Mary Graham,  
Sandra Johnson, Salima Kamadoli, Aisha Lado,  
Josephine O'Connor, Mary Samuels, Genevieve Sanford,  
Janice Simmons, Vincent Tucker, and Rudolph Williams*

Our parish community prays for those who request prayers for any reason. If you, a family member, or friend would like to be on our prayer list, please contact the parish office.

## Celebrating Catholic Schools Week January 31 to February 6



**Catholic Schools** To learn more about our school, visit their website and like them on Facebook:  
*Faith. Excellence. Service.*

[sbtmschool.org](http://sbtmschool.org) and [@SaintBenedictTheMoor](https://www.facebook.com/SaintBenedictTheMoor)

This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service." Catholic schools have a specific purpose to form students to be good citizens of the world, love God and neighbor and enrich society with the leaven of the gospel and by example of faith.

CELEBRATING  
**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

A special **Black History Month Calendar** is available on the St. Benedict the Moor website. It features information as well as "actions" that people can take to explore black history in Pittsburgh and beyond. Hard copies will also be available at the churches.

**February 2:** The National Day of Prayer for the African American Family was created by Fr. James Goode, OFM. A day to set aside to give special thanks to God for our families and place our every care in the arms of Jesus.

[blackfacts.com](http://blackfacts.com)

**January 31** Ada Beatrice Queen Victoria Louise Virginia Smith ("Bricktop"), vaudevillian actress, singer, nightclub owner, and international celebrity host, was born in 1894 and died on this date in 1984. At age 16 Smith began touring the vaudeville circuits. It was during this time that she earned the nickname "Bricktop" which referred to her bright red hair and freckles. Throughout her twenties Smith performed in a wide variety of locations including Chicago, San Francisco, Vancouver, and New York.

Smith first performed in Paris, France in 1924. It here that she began hosting and entertaining at charity events and parties for celebrities, where she befriended influential artists such as the authors F. Scott Fitzgerald and John Steinbeck, and the composer and musician Cole Porter. Porter wrote a song for Smith titled, "Miss Otis Regrets She's Unable to Lunch Today." In 1926 Smith became more involved with the Paris nightclub scene. As World War II approached Smith decided to return to New York.

She continued to entertain in nightclubs and at charity events into the early 1980s.

## PASTOR'S NOTE



### Celebrating Catholic Schools Week!

As a product of both a Catholic and Public Education, I am very grateful for the sacrifices my parents made for me and my two sisters so we could get a great Catholic elementary education. I graduated from St. Norbert Elementary School in Overbrook in 1984, Carrick High School in 1988 and Clarion University in 1992. I am very thankful for the foundation of the morals and values that Catholic Education has given me in my life.

This week we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. There are many wonderful options for schools in our area. St. Benedict the Moor School offers a quality Catholic education in a safe and loving environment with a 3 and 4 year-old pre-school program and Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. We have a wonderful "neighborhood school" right here in the Hill District. Please call 412.682.3755 or visit [www.sbtmschool.org](http://www.sbtmschool.org) for more information. With many public and private schools closed and doing all virtual learning from home due to the pandemic we are blessed to have our Catholic school open for in person instruction or the option for daily virtual learning.

This weekend we celebrate the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. In the first reading from the Book of Deuteronomy, we read how Moses assures the people that God will never abandon them. He challenges them to show their gratitude by remaining loyal to the terms of the covenant with God. In the Second Reading from Paul to the Corinthians, we read how Paul devotes himself to helping the people of faith remain loyal to God. In the Gospel of Mark, we read how Jesus teaches in the synagogue on the sabbath and all those who heard were astounded by his teachings and he then expels an unclean spirit from a man.

Jesus speaks to us each time we gather to hear the gospel proclaimed. Guiding us through our own personal exodus with every-day life challenges, Jesus leads us to eternal life if we only follow and trust him.

### Celebrating Catholic Schools Week!

## Blessing of Throats

In honor of the Feast of St. Blaise, which is this coming **Wednesday, February 3**, we will have a special "Blessing of Throats" prayer at the conclusion of Mass this weekend. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic we are unable to have individual throat blessings this year.

## Looking Ahead

**Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021:** Mass will be held at **6:30 pm** with the distribution of ashes conducted after the homily during Mass. This year because of the Covid-19 pandemic to practice social distancing, instead of ashes being placed on the forehead, the priest will sprinkle ashes over the head to avoid any hand to head contact.

## Parish Improvements

Matt Mertz Plumbing continues to make repairs to the main waterline at The Center on Bedford Avenue. The cost of this major project is \$46,000. We received an insurance claim of \$10,000 to help offset some of the cost.

Gluten Free Hosts are now available at every Sunday Mass. If you need a Gluten Free Host, please point to the "side car" connected to the ciborium upon approaching the priest in the Communion line and he will give you a gluten free host.

## St. Benedict the Moor Center

The Diocese of Pittsburgh has approved the sale of the St. Benedict the Moor Center, 2900 Bedford Avenue (the former St. Benedict the Moor School, rectory (St. Charles Lwanga House) and convent to parishioner, Ayisha Morgan-Lee, and the Hill Dance Academy Theatre (HDAT). The Diocesan Legal Office and the Property and Planning Offices are assisting us with the paperwork.

## Mass Intentions

There are Mass intention openings for the 10:30 am Sunday Masses and we are now offering the Sanctuary Candle to be lit for one full week in memory or in honor of a loved one. If you would like to have a Mass said or the Sanctuary Candle lit in front of the tabernacle for a loved one, please contact Priscilla Davis at the office Monday thru Friday 10am to 2pm at 412-281-3141 or by email at [office@sbtmparish-pgh.com](mailto:office@sbtmparish-pgh.com).

We have complimentary *We Celebrate Missalettes* available on the table at the front entrance of the church.

Our parish office is open Monday through Friday 10 am to 2 pm. Please note the new office email address: [office@sbthmparishpgh.com](mailto:office@sbthmparishpgh.com)

## Something to Think About...

*The more we are transformed by the power of Christ,  
the less we will be conformed to this world.*

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor  
[tburke@diopitt.org](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org)

## Fr. David Taylor



Many of the most striking Gospel stories take up the issue of healing. Jesus and the disciples are often called upon for both spiritual and physical healing. This is significant in that most of us who seek physical health also are in need of spiritual renewal.

The most successful therapy sessions dealing with addictions have a strong spiritual component. As people go through a period of recovery, they discover that, in order to be whole again, they must recapture their relationship with God. This is why those experiencing healing could not help but go and tell others of what God had done for them. The present pandemic has left many suffering both in need of physical and spiritual health. Most who are sick find themselves in need of the sacraments, especially those of healing and the Holy Eucharist. It is difficult to experience a physical recovery without a renewal of faith.

## Fr. Matthew Hawkins



Last week the United States hit a new tragic milestone. Over 400,000 Americans have died from the coronavirus pandemic. Additionally, the World Health Organization reports that wealthy nations have bought up almost all of the vaccines, leaving poorer nations without the means to immunize

their people. As an indication of how divided we are as a nation, we have recently witnessed the sobering spectacle of the deployment of 25,000 National Guard troops in Washington so that the presidential inauguration took place under conditions that resembled a war zone.

If we see the world through a sacramental lens then we may begin to see how we journey through life together, and how the divisions in our world and in our society reflect the loss of our sense of a common humanity.

A sacramental view of this pandemic may show us how to slow down and not to be discouraged when we can no longer live with the illusion that everything is under our control. When all of our careful planning goes awry we learn what it means to trust more and more on divine providence. We also deepen our solidarity with the rest of humanity. The question we should confront in the face of tragedy is not primarily "Why did God allow this to happen? What is God saying to us?" Rather it is, "How is God calling us to respond to this tragedy? What is God calling me to do?"

We are now in a period that straddles the national holiday of the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr., which we celebrated two weeks ago, and the beginning of African American History month, which begins this week. During this time of the year, much of the discussion in the news and in

Most of those ministering in healthcare have had serious needs both spiritual and physical.

The late spiritual writer Fr. Henri J. M. Nouwen spoke in his book, "The Wounded Healer", of how his own spiritual and physical deficiency helped him to be a spiritual healing leader. As he extended himself to others, he realized the challenge of giving to others as he experienced these same needs. The best prophets are often those who have suffered greatly in their own life. Jesus was aware of this when he called his own disciples to follow him. As they followed Jesus, the healer, they were able to have their own faith restored. In a sense we are all wounded healers. We take our deficits with us as we try to help others.

This is so very important as we attempt to recover our sense of decency and respect. The physical and moral challenges we have faced over this past year have been immense. But the fact that we are all wounded can help us to journey with others on the road to recovery.

schools is focused on "race" and "racism". The model for a Christian response to the sin of racism was encoded into the DNA of the Civil Rights movement which King led 50 years ago. The Civil Rights movement was a church-based movement that was centered on prayer. The principle behind that movement was this: do not deny the humanity of those who hate you and do not allow them to diminish the dignity of the human person in yourself.

This principle is still a guide in our divided and restless society. One of the most shocking scenes described in today's Gospel (Mk 1: 21-28) is the scene where a man who is possessed by an unclean spirit, filled with fear and anger, accosts Jesus in the temple for having come into the world to end the reign that such spirits have over the hearts of people. Jesus' response was not to mirror the behavior of the man who had lost his senses, which would have solved nothing, rather it was to transform the situation by restoring that man to his humanity.

Today, Christians are called and challenged to reject a destructive spiral that is based on fear and anger and to restore the dignity of the human person in ourselves and in everyone we meet. The Gospel according to St. Matthew quotes the prophet Isaiah who said: "The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light; on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen" (Mt 4:16).

Let us be that light that breaks through the darkness, but this will only be possible by remaining in communion with God through prayer, sacred scripture, and the sacraments. The dignity of the human person must be restored in us so that we can restore that dignity in those whom we otherwise might be tempted to see as being our "enemy". The light must break through the darkness that is inside of each of us before we can be that light to break through the darkness in all the world.